

## **AVIN: Jamaica's Solution to Memorialising Its Cultural Patrimony**

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The National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) as focal point of the National Information System (NATIS) has responsibility for the preservation of the national patrimony, including indigenous sound and image recordings. The Audio Visual Information Network (AVIN) has been established to fulfill this mandate for audio visual material. The network which was officially launched in 2003 has as its main goals o Establishing National Registry of Audiovisual Collections o Acquisition of purpose-built National Audio Visual Conservation Facility (NAVCF) with mass repositories for permanent preservation of Jamaica's AV heritage o Development and marketing of Audio Visual Data Access (AVIDA) system as a national and regional solution to documenting sound and image recordings Among its various activities, the network undertakes training, setting of standards and taking inventory of national infrastructure and collection resources. The paper describes the formation and development of the network. It details the challenges of access, collection management, and preservation which face small developing countries like Jamaica. It discusses the pilot project to preserve and provide access to the Bennett/Coverley Heritage Collection. This Collection consists of audio visual and paper resources deposited at the NLJ; and serves to document the evolution of Jamaica from colonial to national status as well as the career of the Dr. the Hon. Louise Bennett Coverley, world renowned Jamaican cultural ambassador and Jamaica's foremost proponent of nation language and national heritage. The database is a prototype which AVIN proposes to use as a basis for the development of a national audio visual database and registry.